

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



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# THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 9  
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## LOOKING AHEAD

**You're Missing a Lot if You're Not Following Us Online.** We're posting stories daily on our website, many of which never make it onto the pages of The Community Voice print edition. Plus, you can read many of the stories from our print edition before they appear in our print edition. So consider stopping by CommunityVoiceKS.com on a regular basis to see what's news.

**Sign Up for Our Weekly Newsletter:** If you don't have time to stop by the website on a regular basis, sign up for our weekly newsletter. Once a week, we'll send you a newsletter summarizing our top five stories of the week.

## CONTACT US



**Stop Looking for a Print Edition of The Community Voice:** You can read editions of The Community Voice on our website. Not just current and recent issues. You can read issues dating back several years. Go to [www.CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://www.CommunityVoiceKS.com), click on "e-editions." Plus, our archive is searchable. If there's a particular story you're looking for, just enter a defining word for the story in the search box.

## HAVE AN IDEA FOR A STORY?



**Make an appointment to share your story idea with our reporting team.**

- APPOINTMENTS:  
Mondays 10 a.m. to Noon.
- 15 minute time slots
- Deadline for Space reservation  
Thursday before the appt.
- COME PREPARED TO SHARE!!!

**VOICE  
YOUR  
STORY**



# Do You Have a Story Idea?

Plus a Change in Our Print Calendar

**By Bonita Gooch,**  
Voice Editor in Chief

We're always looking for great story ideas and we're always looking for ways to better serve and met the needs of our customers.

With that in mind, this week, we're introducing two new ideas:

Voice Your Story and The Voice Community Calendar Newsletter - coming in May

**Voice Your Story**  
Do you have a story idea that you think would be great for us to cover?

We're setting time aside each Monday for you to Voice Your Story idea to our editors and reporting team.

You'll have up to 15 minutes to share your idea, so come prepared.

You don't have to have

a written press release but come with some information especially names, emails and telephone numbers for people our reporters can reach out to for further development of the story. The more detail you have the better.

For the more professional marketers who may or may not have sent us a press release, this is a great opportunity for you to expand beyond your release. It helps our reporters get additional background information, without passing more emails and making more telephone calls. It's also your chance to convince us your story is a good match for our paper.

We make no guarantee that we'll cover every story that's pitched to us. Some stories just aren't a match for our publication and we also

have a very limited reporting team, which limit our ability to cover every story.

However, we're really excited about the opportunity to find out about more great things going on in our readership area and in making connections for future stories.

### Make Your Appointment

- The appointment deadline for each Monday is the Thursday before.
- Appointments are on a first come, first serve basis.
- Use the QR Code in the advertisement on this page to reserve your spot.
- FYI, we blocked off a few Mondays, mostly for holidays.

### The Voice Print Calendar

Our print calendar is

really growing and it's starting to take up a lot of our often limited print space, so we're beginning the process of transitioning the calendar to a Thursday afternoon newsletter.

More details are coming. We promise we'll make it easy for you to sign up for the newsletter, which will come out each Thursday, just in time for your weekend.

If you have an event, we'll also have a way for you to submit your event flier.

The Voice Community Calendar will be visual, easy to read, full of fab events and free for both the event sponsor and as always free for our readers.

Stay tuned for more information on this move in our May 3 paper.

**On The Cover:** GoApe Zipline is one of the surprise jewels in Kansas City's massive 1800 plus acre park. **Page 8-9**

## CARTOON

**By Clay Jones**  
Cartoonist

President Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the United States will not participate in a strike against Iran.

I don't have any confidence that we'll prevent Israel from using American rockets to hit Iran since we're not stopping them from using American rockets to hit civilians in Gaza.

President Biden has told Bibi to take it easy on bombing civilians and finishing the call with, "By the way, I'm sending more missiles."

And as if Israel wasn't busy enough bombing babies in Gaza, it also hit an Iranian consulate in Syria, killing generals, support staff, and civilians.

Hitting an embassy or a consulate is a diplomatic no-no. It's a violation of the Geneva Convention. Israel did not mistakenly hit the Iranian consulate.



## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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# Settlement: Wichita Police's Gang List Slashed

Settlement will strike 3,517 people from Wichita gang list.

## Key Points:

- Two-thirds of Wichita's gang list will be removed immediately.
- Police will conduct an annual audit of remaining active gang members.
- Settlement agreement allows people on the list to challenge their designation.

By **Matthew Kelly**  
Wichita Journalism  
Collaborative

A constitutional challenge to the Wichita Police Department's gang list will result in at least two-thirds of the people on the list being removed immediately.

The 3,517 people previously classified as "inactive gang members" and "gang associates" will be struck from the list under a settlement agreement approved by the city council April 9, meaning they legally can no longer be subjected to heightened police scrutiny and harsher punishments.

Under the supervision of a court-appointed special master, police will also be required to conduct an annual audit of the 1,728 people designated as "active gang members" to determine whether they meet a stricter criteria to qualify for inclusion in the gang list and its corresponding database.

"The settlement isn't perfect. We certainly think it's an improvement on the current state of affairs," said Kunyu Ching, a staff attorney with the ACLU of Kansas, which, along with Kansas Applesseed, brought the legal challenge to Wichita's gang policy on behalf of juvenile justice advocacy group Progeny.

Sixty percent of people on the gang list are Black and 25% are Hispanic. Only 6% are White. Under the policy in place before the settlement, police had broad authority to identify people as gang members based on such arbitrary factors as where they live, what color clothing they wear, where they shop or buy gas and who they are photographed with.

"It is so inflammatory and so unjust for

you as a young person to not be able to be around your peers or to be able to go into a house of a relative or to decipher to coordinate your clothes — I just want to match my clothes — and be labeled a gang member," said Marquetta Atkins-Woods, executive director of Progeny.

She said her own son was once stopped by police as he was walking back to school from their house during a lunch period. They wanted to know where he was going and what gang he was affiliated with.

"Systemically, Black and Brown kids are profiled," Atkins-Woods said. "Their communities are overpoliced, and they are put in these boxes just because of who they are."

Once on the list, members are subjected to frequent stops and searches over minor traffic infractions, and have a minimum \$50,000 bail if charged with a violent crime and longer sentences in higher-security prisons if convicted.

City Attorney Jennifer Magaña told council members April 9 that "WPD's [gang] database serves as an important criminal intelligence function and allows police to act in a proactive way to solve crime."

For someone to qualify for the list now, they must be observed engaging in criminal gang behavior or self-identify as a gang member.

"This mediated agreement is intended to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Wichita and allow law enforcement to conduct effective investigations for public safety," city spokesperson Megan Lovely said in an emailed statement.

A WPD spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

## Terms of the Settlement

For the first time, people placed on the gang list will have the right to know they have been included and the right to challenge that designation under the settlement agreement, which still needs a federal judge's signature before it can go into effect.

The city will have up to 30 days to respond when someone submits a request asking whether they are included in the gang database. Attorneys and legal guardians can also request this information.

If police think a person between ages 13 and 17 meets the criteria to be put on the list, they must notify their parents or guardians and give them an opportunity

to enter into an intervention agreement that, if upheld, will prevent inclusion on the list.

"When a person over the age of 18 is identified as a criminal street gang member and added to the WPD Gang Database, a supervisor from the Gang/Felony Assault Section will send a written notification to that individual at their last known address," the agreement states.

Police must also explain the criteria used to justify their inclusion and provide instructions for challenging the designation, which involves submitting an appeal request to a city council-appointed "gang review ombudsperson."

That person, who must be a licensed attorney or former federal judge qualified to access the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System, will review all available information and issue a written decision in any appeal case. If gang member status is upheld, it can be appealed every 18 months.

People included on the list can also request to review any physical documentation used to support their classification as a gang member, but WPD can deny the request "if it would risk revealing or compromising confidential sources, impede or risk impeding law enforcement activities, risk endangerment of a person, or as otherwise restricted by law."

## Special Master

The agreement calls for Paul Gurney, a former Johnson County federal district court judge, to serve as special master, ensuring that the WPD lives up to the standards of the settlement over the next three years. The city council voted to authorize \$75,000 in payment for the special master.

"The changes, unless they're actually carried out, they could just be words, right?" said Teresa Woody, litigation director at Kansas Applesseed. "But this [special master] really ensures that there's a mechanism for a third party to review what's going on, to see that



Your choice of clothing could have been all it took to get you on the Wichita gang list, without a way for you to appeal your status.

# Kiva KC Helping Bridge Entrepreneur Funding Gap

The new program offers 0% interest crowd-sourced microloans to local small businesses.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Enoma Ighedosa started his own vending machine company, Good Life Vending, a year ago with ten vending machines around KC. Looking to expand, Ighedosa went to his bank to try and get a business loan, but was denied.

"I knew it was a low chance: my business doesn't have a long financial history, and, honestly, I am a Black business owner, and it's been extremely documented how banks discriminate against Black business owners more than White ones, so I wasn't really surprised," says Ighedosa.

Ighedosa was referred to a new program called Kiva KC, which offers up to \$15,000 in interest-free, crowd-sourced, microloans that don't take credit history into account.

Those looking to expand or jumpstart their business can get their story uploaded to Kiva's website, where 1.6 million worldwide lenders have the opportunity to fund upstart entrepreneurs. Ighedosa says his business has only been on Kiva for a couple of days and is already 40% of the way toward his \$5,000 goal.

"A crowdfunding loan [like Kiva] can be a great alternative option for minority-owned businesses to get funding versus traditional loans from banks," says Ighedosa.

## Kiva KC Origins

The City of Kansas City's Bizcare office partnered with

the Economic Development Corporation of KC (EDCKC), to bring the first Kiva hub to Kansas City as a component of its new small business "starting" capital programs launching in 2024.

Last year, the City of Kansas City participated in the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE) program for microlending sponsored by the National League of Cities. Through its participation, KC committed to building a platform for microlending to serve entrepreneurs without access to traditional finance.

The commitment included the establishment of a local Kiva Hub and the hiring of a new capital access manager to implement the program.

"Their program gave us the tools and resources we needed to bring the first hub to Kansas City," said Nia Richardson, managing director of small business and digital equity with the City of Kansas City.

Kiva started overseas in 2005 with lenders supporting things like funding for single mothers in Guatemala to make handmade baskets. After the success of the overseas model, in 2011, the program was brought to the United States.

Kiva, a nonprofit, makes money from donations and fees rather than loan interest for the hub model. A grant from the National League of Cities funded the Kiva KC hub.

"Here with the Kansas City hub, the goal is to expand accessible capital for businesses who are just starting up or if they're established but just need a quick infusion of capital. Kiva is an option for them," says Regina Sosa, capital access manager for Kiva KC.

"This relationship will allow us to guide and support crucial small businesses that help our economic ecosystem expand while also bringing in disadvantaged participants that are typically excluded," said Tracey Lewis, president and CEO of EDCKC.

## How Kiva Microloans Work:

**Loan Application:** Entrepreneurs apply for loans ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 through [Kiva.org/borrow](http://Kiva.org/borrow), then meet with the KivaKC team to review or edit the application as needed.

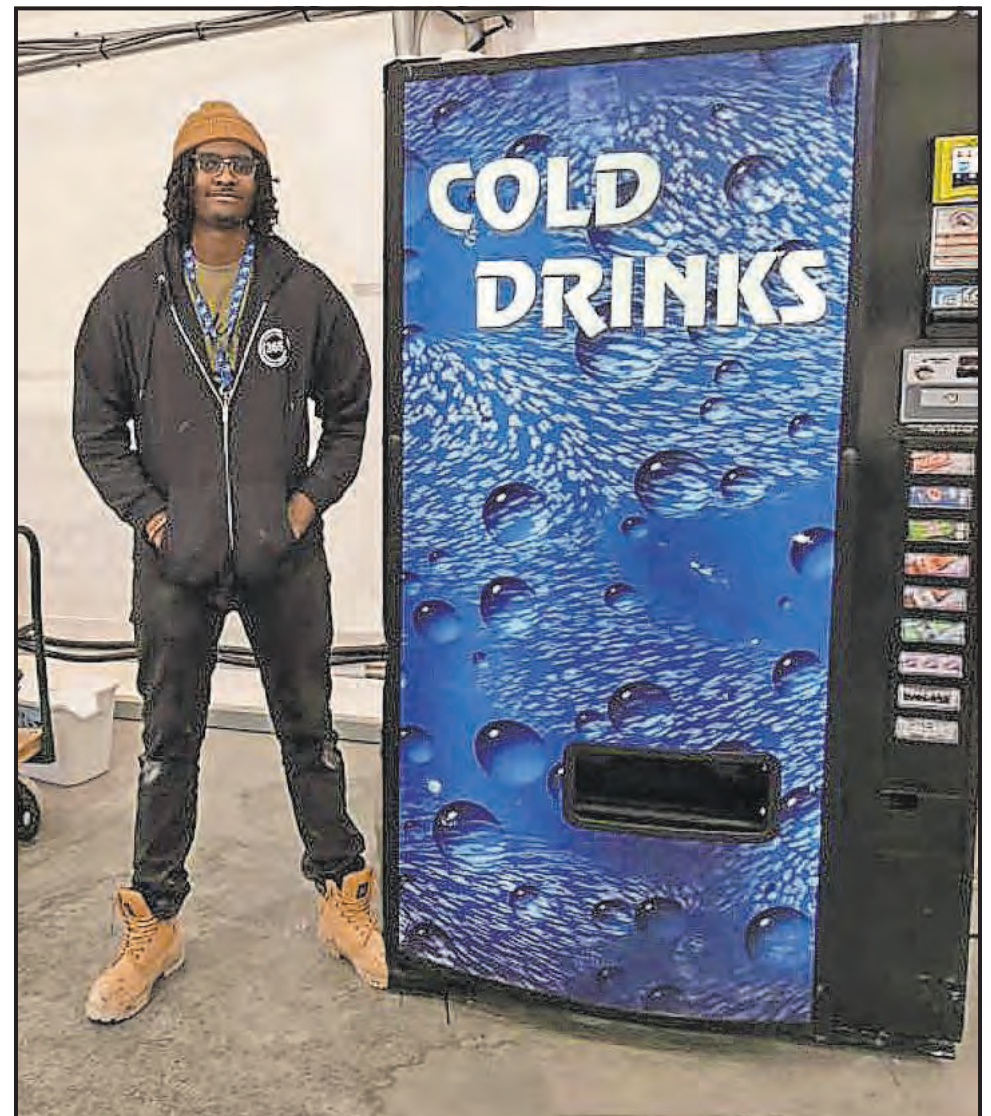
**Social Underwriting:** Approved borrowers are required to invite five to 40 friends, family, or folks from their personal network to lend as little as \$25 each, demonstrating creditworthiness through social connections.

**Fundraising:** Once the borrower's social underwriting goal is met, they are listed on Kiva's online platform to raise the remaining loan amount. Nearly two million worldwide lenders can see the entrepreneur's pitch and can choose to fund the business; corporate sponsors often offer to match donations to Kiva businesses.

**Repayment:** Loans are disbursed and repaid through PayPal. The borrower can repay the loan over 12 to 36 months. Businesses can also reapply for larger amounts after repayment.

## Who Lends Money for Kiva Loans?

Initially, the entrepreneur's friends, family, and social network pitch in to show that the venture is viable. From there, the loan is financed by people worldwide, much like GoFundMe or Kickstarter.



Enoma Ighedosa is raising \$5,000 for his vending machine business through Kiva KC's crowd-sourced microlending platform.

"Typically, the lenders who are on Kiva.org are doing it for the impact because they know with as little as \$25, they can contribute to someone's dream of expanding or opening up their business," says Regina Sosa, from Kiva KC.

Once a loan is repaid, lenders can use the same money to support another project. In theory, this means that the same \$25 can be used to help upstart businesses over and over in a virtuous cycle. According to Kiva, 96.4% of their microloans are repaid

on time, offering a low risk to lenders.

## To Qualify for Kiva KC

- Borrower and business must be U.S. based.
- The borrower must be age 18 or older.
- The loan must be used for business purposes.
- Businesses must not be engaged in multi-level marketing, direct sales, pure financial investing, or illegal activities.
- Borrower or business must not be currently under foreclosure, bankruptcy,

or under any liens.

- Home-based businesses are eligible for a Kiva loan.
- Businesses must have a business bank account connected to PayPal since Kiva loans are disbursed and repaid through PayPal. Applications are now open and are accepted on a rolling basis for entrepreneurs interested in accessing affordable capital through Kiva KC. Learn more and apply at [www.Kiva.org/borrow](http://www.Kiva.org/borrow), or contact Kiva KC via email at [KansasCity@local.kiva.org](mailto:KansasCity@local.kiva.org) or by phone at 816-691-2120.

# Will Gov. Kelly Sign or Veto Tax Cuts?

## Here's What Else Passed

Kansas lawmakers return to Topeka in a few weeks to consider overriding any vetoes by the governor. But here are the bills they passed so far in 2024.

**By Blaise Mesa**  
Wichita Journalism  
Collaborative

**K**ansas lawmakers passed dozens of bills in the final weeks of their regular session and may pass a few more when they return to the capitol in a few weeks to close out the legislative year.

They passed another tax cut, a top priority for Republicans, as well as bans on gender-affirming care and statutes on crimes.

Some bills are likely to be vetoed, setting up veto fights

in the upcoming weeks.

The Republican-controlled legislature can expect Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly to veto some of the most controversial bills, setting up override votes.

Here's what happened:

### Tax Cuts Sent to Kelly

Republicans and Democrats mostly agreed on a package of tax cuts.

Kansas might move from a three-tier income tax bracket down to two tiers. The new brackets would tax income 5.15% and 5.55% rates. That



Gov. Laura Kelly addresses attendees at Kansas Black Legislative Day at the Capitol 2024.

replaces the current system of 3.1%, 5.25% and 5.7%.

Property taxes would also be cut. Homeowners could exempt up to \$100,000 in

appraised value. Currently, only \$40,000 can be exempted.

Income taxes on Social Security would be eliminated when someone earns more than \$75,000 a year and the

sales tax on food would end July of this year rather than January 2025.

In all, it's a \$1.5 billion tax cut over three years. That's smaller than a previous tax

plan Kelly vetoed, but this bill is no guarantee either.

"I see a future where this is probably going to get vetoed because of every conversation that I've had," said Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) during the floor debate.

These tax proposals are all bundled together, so vetoing the bill vetoes all the measures. Other smaller cuts are scattered throughout other bills.

The bill has unanimous approval in the House and is currently three votes shy of a veto-proof majority in the Senate, though seven lawmakers did not vote on the bill when it first passed.

The governor has promised to bring lawmakers back to Topeka for a special session if tax cuts are not passed out. Simply put, if this bill fails, the legislature has promised to try again.

### Gender-Affirming Care and a Likely Kelly Veto

The Republican-controlled House passed a ban on gender-affirming care. That includes puberty blockers, hormone treatment and genital surgeries for minors. It also prohibits state funds from being used for the procedure and can cost doctors their license if they perform the care.

The bill is almost guaranteed to be vetoed by the governor, who has rejected similar bills in the past. The ban appears to have passed with a veto-proof majority, but the bill will die if even one lawmaker who approved the ban switches their vote.

If overridden, doctors say it will cause serious mental health issues for transgender Kansans.

### Abortion

Two bills related to abortion passed this session.

The first requires abortion providers to ask patients to identify the main reason



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# Kansas City Kansas Residents to Vote on \$420 Million Bond Issue



**By Bonita Gooch**  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

On Tues., May 7, residents of Kansas City Ks within the area served by USD 500 School Districts will vote on whether or not to approve a \$420 million Bond package to build four new schools, add additions to two schools, build a new aquatic center, complete \$45.5 million in needed deferred maintenance at some schools, complete \$66.5 million in facility

improvements at some several schools and contribute \$20 million to a new downtown public library and expand the district's Pre-K education capacity.

That's a lot, but administrators say a lot is needed in a school district with aging buildings. However, a lot of research and discussion went into finalizing the list of projects to be included in the bond issue, including considering input gathered from students, parents, staff, and community members through a facilities assessment survey.

This is a fairly comprehensive facilities improvement program with nearly every school or learning environment in the district having some work completed, except for buildings replaced during the 2016 bond or earlier in the 2000s, and those

buildings currently slated for replacement in the next 5-7 years.

The school district last passed a bond issue in 2016. Thanks to some creative financing the bond did not require an increase in the district's tax levy. The 2016 Bond bought two new elementary schools, two new middle schools, remodeled career academy spaces for middle and high schools and more.

Very unique to this bond issue is the inclusion of an aquatic center that will be open for use for all KCK residents and a \$20 million contribution to the expansion of the main KCK library.

## Aquatic Center

In a City with just one aging and small public swimming pool, the addition of a state-of-the-art aquatic center would be a great asset to the community. However, with the Wyandotte Unified Government struggling financially, adding the center to the bond issue might be the only way any kind of addition to the city's aquatic capacity might become a reality in the foreseeable future.

Three of the district's high schools currently have pools but only one is sized to host competitive events. The new facility would be able to handle aquatic competitions for all of the high schools, and it would be available for swimming classes and enjoyment.

A location for the center is not specified in the bond issue. If the bond passes, the district will work with the Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department to discuss how the two entities can partner to manage and use the facility for the benefit of the entire Kansas City, Kansas community.

## Contribution to New Public Library

The City's current downtown library is more than 60 years old and inadequate in many ways, one of which is most hampering to almost anyone who drives to the facility is the lack of parking. But the library's shortcomings are many, which led the Library Board, after considerable professional analysis, to vote to replace the library.

The estimated cost to build the 21st Century Library is estimated at \$60 million. The current library board has \$20 million set aside for the construction project. The passage of the bond would allow an additional contribution up to \$20 million for the project and the library committee is committed to raising the \$20 million balance.

This project replaces only the downtown public library and does not impact the four branch libraries.

## More Bond Issue Specifics

Here are a few more specifics on items included in the bond issue.

### New Schools:

- Emerson and New Stanley Elementary Schools combined
- Silver City and Noble Prentiss Elementary combined
- Lindbergs and Eugene Ware Elementary combined
- New Argentine Middle School
- New Central Middle School

### New Additions to Schools

- M.E. Pearson and Whittier Elementary Schools would get new editions replacing mobile units being used due to overcrowding.

### Building expansion projects:

- J.C. Harmon – gym addition
- F.L. Schlagle – gym

## The Case Against the Bond Issue

The group opposing the ballot measure is called WYCO Commonwealth Advocacy Coalition. Their concern is Wyandotte County residents are already heavily taxed and they are also concerned about improving the performance of students in the district ahead of funding the school improvements. The additional tax for the bond issue would be on top of the Unified Government and Kansas City Kansas Property Tax Increase last fall as well as rate increases by the Board of Public Utilities. The additional annual taxes on a home valued at \$125,000 would be approximately \$122 per year or \$10.50 per month. However, their main focus appears to be the poor performance of students in the district and issues they say the district should be focusing on

instead of new schools and school capital improvements. They point out that the Kansas Board of Education put USD 500 on Conditional Accreditation Status citing poor standardized test scores and an increasing dropout rate. However, just this month and based on improved performance, the district was returned to full accreditation status. "Let's be clear," Pamela Penn-Hicks said, "we do not have an issue with maintaining our schools or even creating new schools if there's a valid reason for them. That is not our issue. Our issue is quality of education." They are joined in their opposition to the bond by school board members Dr. Valdenia Winn and Wanda Paige, who were the only two school board members who voted against the bond issue.

## The Case for the Bond Issue

Supporters of the bond issue say our children are worth the extra \$10.50 per month a person with a house appraised at \$125,000 would have to pay in support of the \$420 million in improvements. "Ask yourself, are our children worth \$10 a month," said Gordon Criswell a volunteer working in support of the bond issue. "Those who oppose because of the tax increase aren't applying a cost benefit approach to this small increase in our taxes, that's literally cheaper than the price of a Go Chicken Go wing box with a large soda. "I think it's about our kids having decent facilities. I think it's about safety," mentioned Criswell. He pointed out schools with mobile classrooms that were meant to be temporary that are still there 15 to 20 years later.



addition

Transportation South – office addition and renovations

### Elementary, Middle and High School Upgrades:

- Interior finish upgrades
- Movable furniture, fixtures, and equipment &

technology upgrades

- Special education improvements
- Accessibility upgrades
- Exterior upgrades
- Pool upgrade (high schools only)
- Auditorium upgrades

**Tax Cuts**, from Page 5 ↓

someone sought an abortion. Republicans say it will provide valuable information about the process. Democrats say questions — like whether someone lacks family support — are too personal.

The second bill makes it a felony to physically or financially threaten someone into getting an abortion.



“I see a future where this is probably going to get vetoed because of every conversation that I’ve had.”

**DINAH SYKES SENATE**  
Minority Leader (D-Lenexa)

Withholding medications or documents like passports is also illegal.

The bill was originally amended to make other types of reproductive coercion a crime, like messing with someone’s birth control. That was stripped out. The bill has bipartisan support, but there is concern that divorcing someone if they refuse to get an abortion would technically count as coercion.

**Elections**

Kansas lawmakers want to crack down on ballot harvesting. A proposal headed to the governor would make county election officers track who drops off a mail ballot. If someone delivers more than 10 mail ballots, the county would have to report them to the secretary of state.

The bill is currently well short of a veto-proof majority in the House.

An attempt to eliminate the three-day grace period for mail

ballots stalled out in the final days of the session.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

State lawmakers voted to prohibit public universities from hiring, rejecting or promoting staff based on diversity, equity and inclusion ideas.

The universities would also be required to publicly share their training materials. Violating the law could bring a \$10,000 fine. The bill is three votes short of a veto-proof majority in the House, but two Republicans and two Democrats missed that vote.

**Civil Asset Forfeiture**

Kansas is revamping its civil asset forfeiture laws that allow police to seize assets they believe are tied to crime. For example, taking a car that is used to run drugs from one town to the next.

But some say law enforcement began taking too many vehicles and money from

everyday Kansans without reason. Kansas police took \$25.3 million worth of property and money in a three-and-a-half-year period. Between July 2019 and Dec. 2022, 79% of people who lost their property were not convicted of a crime and only 10% of seized property was returned, according to an Americans for Prosperity review.

Lawmakers have now agreed to reduce the number of crimes that could count toward

seizure. If signed into law, the bill requires police to give a reason to seize someone’s asset and lets people petition the court to argue their seizure was too extensive.

**Age Verification for Porn Sites**

Lawmakers want to require Kansans to verify their age when accessing websites that have more than 25% of their content deemed harmful to minors.

The bill doesn’t specifically call out pornographic websites, but those entities would be subject to the law. There is some concern that harmful content is too broad a term and could sweep up other websites actually aren’t harmful to minors.

**Encouraging Suicide**

Encouraging someone to kill themselves could soon be a felony. More severe penalties kick in if the person commits suicide.

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[ascension.org/ViaChristiHeart](https://ascension.org/ViaChristiHeart)



# Get Out: Visit KC's Swope Park

The city's largest park has amenities and activities for everyone.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

As spring blooms across the area, it's time to get out and enjoy some of our local and regional amenities. One of the best-kept secrets is the massive Swope Park in Kansas City, MO. There's so much to do there that even many locals may not know about its hidden gems.

Twice the size of New York's Central Park, Swope Park spans 1,800+ acres, making it one of the largest city parks in the United States. Established in 1896 and designed by George Kessler, when it first opened, the Kansas City Star lauded Swope Park as "the people's great playground." The park is named in honor of Thomas H. Swope, who donated the land to the city. Today, the green expanse is a vital natural refuge within the heart of KC.

The amenities at Swope Park are as diverse as the city itself. Here's a look at all there is to do in the "crown jewel" of KC's parks system.

## Swope Park Amenities

- **Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium** — Lions, tigers, and bears are just the tip of the iceberg at the Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium. The zoo has 202+ acres of exhibits showing wildlife from the world over. The Sobela Ocean Life Aquarium is the newest attraction, opening last year with 8,000 animals, including several sharks. Admission to the aquarium is included in a regular ticket purchase, which ranges from \$9.50 to \$22.
- **Starlight Theatre** — This nearly 8,000-seat outdoor venue hosts concerts, plays, and musicals in non-winter months and brings national acts to KC. Ticket prices vary based on the performance.
- **Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park** — Choose your own adventure at Go Ape: There's a treetop adventure course with five ziplines and

obstacles, including rope ladders and a Tarzan swing. The Treetop Journey Course is designed for kids and beginners with simpler obstacles and ziplines. You can also reserve an ax-throwing session. Adventure packages are available at GoApe.com and range from \$29 to \$59.

- **Golf Courses** — Swope Park boasts two golf courses: Heart of America and Swope Memorial Golf Course. Membership is not required to play, and tee time reservations come with a cart rental that range from \$19 to \$34.
- **Swope Soccer Village** — The \$20 million soccer facility is home to nine soccer fields and is a joint venture between the city and Sporting KC. The village has served as the home of Sporting's youth academy teams and the training facilities of the U.Southeast Community Center — The center offers a variety of activities for all ages, including a gym, basketball courts, classes, and a pool. Admittance is as low as \$2 for kids and \$5 a day for adults.
- **Band Stand & Park Shelters** — Swope Park offers ten shelters with tables, restrooms, seating, and barbeque grills for large and small gatherings. Some shelters require reservations at [kcparks.org](http://kcparks.org) at least three days in advance and cost between \$100 and \$250 to reserve. The bandstand is the largest rentable space in Swope Park, with seating for 100.

## Free Activities at Swope Park

- **Take a Hike** — Swope Park features 20+ miles of trails for hiking or biking.
- **Visit the Nature Center** — The nature center is one of Missouri's largest wildlife rehabilitation centers, providing educational and recreational

activities. It houses 75 animals, including two bald eagles. The center is free and open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Visit the Community Garden** — The gardens offer community members and opportunity to learn how to raise their own nutritious fruits and vegetables and also include the beautiful and educational Beanstalk Children's Garden.
- **Play Disc Golf** — Swope Park features a free disc or frisbee golf course with 18 holes.
- **Take the Dog to the Park** — There are two off-leash, fenced-in dog parks.
- **Play on the Playground** — Swope Park offers four playgrounds around the park.
- **Practice Your Serve** — Two tennis courts are available at 6301 Walnut Ridge Dr.
- **Have a picnic** — Shelters numbered 2, 4, 5, and 9 are free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. If the shelters are taken, there are plenty of picnic areas available.
- **Catch Some Fish** — Lake of the Woods is a stocked fishing lake that is free for public use. Daily catch limits are enforced, and you must have a fishing license.
- **See a View** — The granite Thomas H. Swope memorial (near the golf course with the same name) sits on top of a bluff, overlooking the entire park. Swope is buried under the memorial, and the serene overlook is worth the short hike.



Starlight Theatre. RACHEL BLISS



Community Garden. KC PARKS



Nature Center Kids. KC PARKS



# Swope Park's Racial History

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Swope Park is a figure of local civil rights history. Aspects of the park,

Swope Pool & Golf Course, were racially integrated before segregation formally ended, and the courtroom victories represented the first cracks in 'separate but equal' Jim Crow laws.

In 1938, a lawsuit was won allowing Black men to use city-owned golf courses, but no one had played on holes that were labeled 'Whites Only' until Four Black men peacefully broke the color line at Swope Memorial Golf Course in March 1950, while a fifth watched their cars for vandalism. The course was shortly thereafter fully racially integrated.

In 1951, then chief attorney for the NAACP Thurgood Marshall won a lawsuit that forced the city to integrate Swope Pool just months before the Brown v. Board of Education ruling.

Swope pool was open to all for decades, but has closed indefinitely while the city weighs repair costs. In the 1930s & 1940s, African Americans could only use one shelter within Swope Park: Shelter #5.

Many Black residents—who normally weren't welcome south of 27th street—hosted large gatherings at the shelter, sometimes with over 1,000 people. The shelter was downwind of where the zoo disposed of feces, and White people derisively called the area around shelter #5 'Watermelon Hill' and were known to drive by to gawk.

Because of this mixed history, many Black historians and citizens with a long memory have a love-hate relationship with shelter.



Swope Memorial

Swope Fishing Solo

Swope Zip Line. GO APE

Swope Trails

# Wichita Ministerial League's New President's Vision for Growth

By **Bonita Gooch**  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Bishop Mark Gilkey, who leads the Kansas Southwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, says he remembers a time when ministers were the leaders of our community.

At the forefront of that leadership, Gilkey recalls, was the Wichita Ministerial League (WML). They led community marches, walked the streets and calmed the protestors during the riots of the 60s and went to city hall to confront city officials about policies, policing and laws negatively impacting the community.

"They were a voice for the voiceless," says Gilkey, who just took over as president of the Wichita Ministerial League at the beginning of this year. "They were a strong organization led by strong leaders."

Some members of Wichita's Black community are banking on Bishop Gilkey to be the strong leader who will bring the League back to its glory days.

He expressed his vision for a stronger League during a recent WML sponsored luncheon. More than 100 ministers and community leaders attended the event with many of them leaving committed to reengaging with the organization that had dwindled to fewer than a dozen active members.

Rev. Earl Burkhalter, Senior Pastor of Strangers Rest Baptist Church, attended the luncheon and has reactivated his membership and commitment to the League. He had stopped being involved with the League because he found it "redundant."

"He [Bishop Gilkey] has

a vision of what it [The League] needs to be and he's trying to be innovative and pull people together," says Burkhalter, who from inactive, has signed on to be a member of Gilkey's executive committee. "He has a vision for the organization; for a stronger League and for a stronger community."

## Bishop Gilkey's Vision

Bishop Gilkey, who always remained active with the League, served as both second and first-vice president of the organization, helping out and supporting the president as requested.

Becoming president wasn't his ambition, but when the position became open this time he says the only reason he stepped up was because he felt led by God.

"It definitely was God ordained, I saw where there was a place for growth," said Bishop Gilkey, "I want [the WML] to do more. We have been fragmented and operating in silos. If we can bring ourselves together as a united front, we can be more powerful than one church over here and a group over there."

"If they can just see the power of the unity in our

community of the ecumenical and community leaders coming together as one voice, then politicians, elected officials and law enforcement can see 'that community is united and they're standing together.'

Burkhalter says what impressed him was Gilkey's vision of bringing the League members together across denominations and age groups; from the baby boomers to the Gen Z. He also wants to open the organization to lay ministers and wants their voices heard.

Currently, membership in the organization is limited to active and retired pastors or ordained ministers. Gilkey wants to add a new Friends of the League membership category. He sees that group as important to building and demonstrating the organization's strength and power.

In addition to contributing to WML's mission, these would be individuals – beyond just the ministers -the organization could call on to show up in numbers as a demonstration of the organization's power. As a demonstration of the community's unity, as well as his desire for the League to be proactive instead of reactive, Gilkey

says he's planning a Unity in the Community event, not as a reactive response to any particular action, but as a way of showing the power of a unified community.

Although a date has not been set for the event, he hopes the event, attract 500 to 1000 people to march from down 17th Street to McAdams Park for a unity gathering.

In the meantime, Bishop Gilkey, who admits to having a gift for administration and organizing, is guiding the League to bring about effective change. He's established 16 committees, appointed committee chairs and vice chairs, and has them working on building the league's programming and advocacy in areas such as civic and civil responsibility, education and health and wellness, just to name a few.

In addition, Gilkey says the League is conducting an assessment to discover the three most important needs in the community and to examine how the League can best contribute to those needs and making the community a better place to live.

"It's going to be work but the vision is here," Gilkey says.



Bishop Mark Gilkey, the new president of the Wichita Ministerial League has a vision to help revitalize the organization and to strengthen and unify the community.

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# USD 259 Future Ready Centers Offer Jump Start to Career

Two training centers - one for manufacturing & one for healthcare - prepare students to graduate ready for employment.

## Key Points:

- Kansas high schoolers attend technical colleges free for high-demand jobs.
- USD 259 partners with WSU Tech to equip two training centers.
- Future Ready offers free college credits, latest technology, and pathways for manufacturing and healthcare.

By P.J. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter

It has been more than a decade since Kansas lawmakers passed legislation allowing high school juniors and seniors to add technical college to their high school class load.

Since then, more and more students have graduated high school with professional certifications or associate's degrees, ready to step into higher wage positions in a high-demand field.

Last fall, in response to growing demand, Wichita Public Schools increased access to technical training for their students by opening two state-of-the-art technical training centers.

Called the Future Ready Centers, one focuses on manufacturing, the other on healthcare, and they're part of the Every Student Future Ready initiative adopted by the district in December 2023.

The programs are a partnership between USD 259 and WSU Tech.

The first year of classes at the centers is winding down but they're bustling with activity. Local manufacturing companies are holding recruitment fairs and Future Ready program leaders are working to sign up next year's high school juniors and seniors for the fall year.

"Many of our manufacturing graduates will go to work for Textron or Spirit right here in Wichita, making \$23 to \$24 a hour straight out of high school," said Future Ready Centers Principal Eric Shipman. "Our healthcare students are snapped up by local hospitals, nursing homes, and rehab centers."

## Free College Credits

While many students are looking to go straight into the workforce after graduation, others will use their technical skills as a base toward completing higher degrees in fields like engineering, automation programming, aerospace, or medical and other

specialty degrees.

But graduates still benefit, even if they go on to college because they can graduate with significant college credit at no cost. Students earn between eight and 12 hours of college credits and staff works to build a plan that is the best fit for each individual student each semester they are in the program.

They are also counseled about the opportunity to earn additional dual or concurrent high school and college credits in required general education classes such as English composition, history or math.

Having technical certifications in high-demand jobs also means a student can get higher pay for the part-time hours they work while finishing that advanced degree.

Shipman said, "The great thing is credits are already paid for. There is zero cost to the students in Future Ready. Transportation to the centers is provided, there are no books to buy or tuition to pay.

"The only requirements are that the student be on track to graduate on time, have no attendance issues and follow their school's code of conduct."

## The Manufacturing Center

The Manufacturing Center

is located just east of the main Wichita North High School campus at 13th and Waco. It is a former Dillons' supermarket that the district bought when it closed.

It is now equipped with programmable welders and Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines, 3-D printers and robotics – all of the latest machinery that's in use in industry.

"Our students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to go to work in modern manufacturing plants," Shipman said.

Manufacturing students can choose from three pathways, depending on what their career interests are.

They can choose from aviation, manufacturing production and assembling, or manufacturing maintenance and automation.

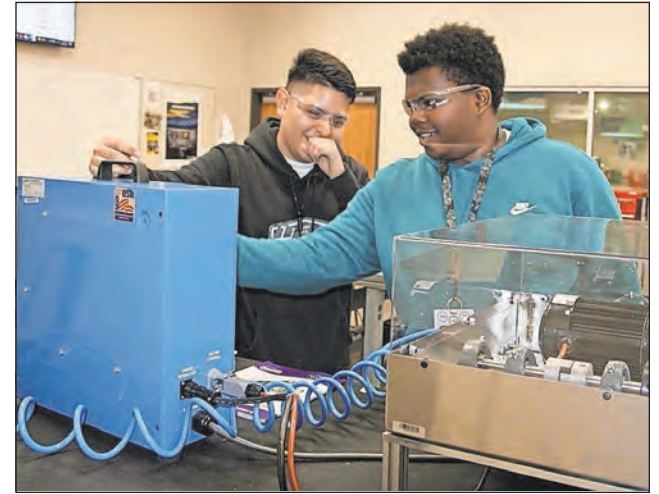
With two years of training, they can earn skill certifications and be ready to fill jobs in welding, robotics, sheet metal, composite manufacturing and more.

## The Healthcare Center

Students at the Healthcare Center can also choose from three pathways:

- Emergency Medical Technician pathway, which earns them an EMT Certification;
- Pre-nursing, where they can obtain certificates as a nurse aide, Home Health Aide or Certified Medication Aide;
- Patient Care Technology, where they can earn certifications as a nurse aide, home health aide, phlebotomy tech, or EKG Tech.

EMT Certification requires the student to pass both written and practical tests administered by the state board, but all the other certification tests are



Damien Garcia Velazquez (L) and Xavion Lewis share a laugh as they program a "Skill Boss" machine in the Future Ready Manufacturing Center.

administered by teachers at the Future Ready Center.

The Healthcare Center is located in the WSU Tech South campus on East Harry Street. The district equipped the center with hospital beds, training mannequins and other equipment giving the program participants the benefit of training in a space that looks and operates like the facilities they will work in after graduation.

Funding for renovation and equipment for both centers was paid for through the American Rescue Plan Act.

## Program Future

Shipman said Future Ready is working on plans to offer experience for students inside hospitals at Wesley, Ascension Via Christi, and Kansas Heart Hospital in the near future

There are currently 125 students in healthcare classes and 108 in manufacturing. Next fall, Shipman expects the numbers to grow.

"I think we'll be at 250 in healthcare. That's close to capacity," he said. "I'm expecting about 200 in manufacturing."

High schoolers who will be juniors or seniors in the fall can sign up for Future Ready Centers online.

## Every Student Future Ready

The expansive USD 259 Every Student Future Ready Program is a five-year initiative, designed to positively impact student outcomes in three key areas: Increasing graduation rates, improving ACT scores, increasing math proficiency by 8th grade and increasing reading proficiency by 3rd grade.

As part of the program, a variety of enhanced reading interventions are being undertaken from preschool through 3rd grade that involve encouraging reading readiness and skills. In elementary school, programs are being implemented to help students stay on track as math becomes more challenging.

A number of studies have shown that students who are proficient in reading by 3rd grade and in math by 8th grade are more likely to have regular attendance, graduate and perform better on standardized tests.

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# Parade of Hearts Features Seven Black Artists

The public art display will scatter 'heartworks' across the KC Metro through August.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Back for its third year, Kansas City's Parade of Hearts builds on the city's claim as America's Heartland with 5' fabricated heart sculptures designed by local artists to create artistic wonders designed around a Kansas City-based theme.

The completed hearts are displayed across the city for public viewing and enjoyment from late April to August. The hearts are then

auctioned, with proceeds going toward charities supporting the arts, education, and health and wellness.

This year, 471 artists submitted designs, and 100 were selected. Of those, seven were local African-American artists, up from four last year. Here's a look at the hearts from local Black artists and where to see them starting April 27.

To learn more about all 100 of this year's hearts and where they will be located, go to [paradeofhearts.com](http://paradeofhearts.com).



**Sharon Smith:** The self-taught artist and lifelong educator created "The Mighty MO" based on her husband's reference to KC every time they cross the river into the city. Made to inspire a sense of pride in the city, "The Mighty MO" will be on display at Price Chopper in the Parkville Commons.



**Miles Stewart:** The Lee's Summit North student created "Lake Life" as a nod to his passion for fishing and the outdoors. "Lake Life" will be displayed at Lake Winnebago.



**Taylor Sanders:** The North KC-based visual artist returns with her second heart design, titled "City of Fountains." The artwork focuses on two fountains that she views as important gathering spaces, one on the plaza and one in North KC. "City of Fountains" will be displayed at Price Chopper on Englewood & North Oak.



**Keisha Jordan:** Under the artist moniker Nero Noir, Jordan is a KC-based creative director who's been selected by Parade of Hearts a second time. Her artwork, "The Epic Tale of The Ultra-Violet Warrior," highlights the resilience and determination of those affected by lupus and their fight for visibility. It will be displayed at the Gateway to Raymore.

**Kristen Mims:** All-around creative Mims celebrates the city's passion for soccer with her artwork, titled "Kickin It In KC." The heart features iconography of soccer clubs Sporting KC and KC Current, but also The Comets and the Wizards. "Kickin It In KC" will be on display at CPKC Stadium, the new home of the KC Current.



**John Pannell:** The KCK-based contemporary artist created "Alley-oop," which he calls his love letter to the city. Pannell says, "It reflects the grit of Argentine, the vibrancy of Westport, and the ratchet charm of Wyandotte County." "Alley-oop" will be on display at the KCK Main Public Library.



**Jenna Herring:** The self-taught artist from KC named her artwork "Joy," after the uplifting power she felt from viewing flowers in Kansas City's River Market. Fittingly, her heart will be on display at City Market.

# All-Black Rendition of 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' Coming to KC Melting Pot Theatre

A new version of an American classic comes May 2 - 11 to the Just Off Broadway Theatre.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

The KC Melting Pot Theatre (KCMPT) is set to present an all-Black adaptation of Edward Albee's classic play, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," May 2 to 11. The production is set in

the early 1960s in the home of a university professor and his wife, who invite a younger couple over for a nightcap after a faculty party. As they entertain their guests at 2 a.m., the couple's toxic marriage is unmasked in Albee's provocative look at love, marriage, and privilege.

"This one's quite a doozy," says director Ile Haggins. "Albee's works were absurdist in that he stretched the constructs of social norms to such an extreme that it really challenges our thinking."

The play is considered an American classic, and it was adapted into a film in 1966 starring real-life couple Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Originally premiered in 1962, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" was considered a bold critique of societal norms and the facade of perfection prevalent during that era.

The KCMPT production will run for about three hours, including two intermissions, so you're bound to get your money's worth.

"It's a roller coaster ride," says Haggins. "It's an intense,

emotionally charged examination of the main couple, George and Martha, and how they bring this younger, naive couple into their web of games."

KCMPT's all-Black staging of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" is rare. For decades, Albee's estate was cautious about allowing non-White actors to portray the characters, fearing multiracial casting might compromise the play's impact.

Haggins says that changed when a Howard University professor sent Albee a handwritten letter asking to stage the play with an all-Black cast. Albee himself made edits that changed the setting to Virginia, tweaking character descriptions and dialogue to maintain the play's spirit and tension.

"It adds some new elements that were just really never explored in Albee's original work," says Haggins.

The modified version of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" hasn't been formally published. Haggins says they had to receive special modifications for the all-Black

production from the Albee estate. She equates KCMPT's adaptation of Albee's best-known play to other racially conscious adaptations in popular culture like the "Black version" of the TV show "The Wonder Years."

"They didn't fictionalize anything, but they took the same premise but instead tell our [Black] stories at that point in history that the masses don't know," says Haggins. "That's why Black theater is so needed because we all aren't stereotypes that all came out of poverty. Here we have two couples where the men are both professors."

The production will run at the Just Off Broadway Theatre from May 2 to 11, with ticket prices ranging from \$17.50 to \$27.50. Select performances will feature audience-and-cast talkbacks, providing an opportunity for deeper engagement with the themes and creative process behind this transformative production.

For more info and tickets, visit [KCMeltingPot.com](http://KCMeltingPot.com) or contact the box office directly at (816) 226-8087.



The cast of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf": (Back L-R) Lynn King, Louis Morrow, Ile Haggins. (Front L-R) Marcel Baly, Haley Johnson.

## Cast & Crew

Lynn King as Martha  
Louis Morrow as George  
Haley Johnson as Honey  
Marcel Baly as Nick  
Ile Haggins - director  
Laura Burt - stage manager  
Alayah Norwood - assistant stage manager



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Rehearsals of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf": (L-R) Haley Johnson, Marcel Baly, Lynn King, Louis Morrow.

## Show Times

Thu., May 2 at 7:30 p.m.  
Fri., May 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 4 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., May 5 at 2 p.m.\*  
Wed., May 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
Thu., May 9 at 7:30 p.m.\*  
Fri., May 10 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

\*Audience/cast talkback after performance

## WICHITA

**Sat., April 20, 12-3 pm: The Center,** 1914 E. 11th St., COVID shots - bring ID.

**Tue., April 23 (9 am) & Wed., Apr 24 (5 pm): Your Leadership Edge,** Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas. Two-day foundational course introduces core concepts in KLC's powerful leadership framework. Discover new ways to communicate, solve problems and lead more effectively back in your context. Sharpen interpersonal skills, self-awareness and confidence with others. Register <https://bit.ly/3WccGI3>.

**Wed, April 24, 10 am (refreshments at 9:30 am): "Color Me Wichita"** - Sara & Charity Harmon Present Their Original Film. Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 121 E. William. Sara and Charity are sister filmmakers in Wichita. Both together and individually, they write, direct, edit, and produce educational, entertaining content for churches, museums, schools, and other clients. COST \$2

**Thu., April 25, 5 pm: Sunflower**

**Social Fundraiser & Mingle.** Newman University Dugan Gorges Conference Center, 3100 E. McCormick. Learn about your community radio station while you mix & mingle with local artists, entrepreneurs & organizations. COST \$25 - RSVP 316 264-9972 / email [sunflowerwichitaks@gmail.com](mailto:sunflowerwichitaks@gmail.com).

**Thu., April 25, 6 pm: Eviction Basics Tenant & Landlord Rights & Responsibilities.** Urban League of Kansas Guild, 2481 E. 9th. Learn the basics: What leads to an eviction? Common landlord/tenant disputes; Possible notices and court filings; The eviction court process and timeline; What happens after an eviction? Register: <https://wkf.ms/3WATbqt>.

**Fri., April 26, 6 - 8 pm: Drop in Art Making for Adults: READiculous WAM Night,** Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd. Explore your creative side by turning discarded book pages into unique works of art in this informal program. No artistic skill necessary and no reservations required. FREE

**Fri., April 26, 6- 9 pm: Final**

**Friday Food & Booze Truck Rally,** Wichita Boathouse, 515 S. Wichita. Live music with Dandie 316, Xclusive Booze Truck, Yard Games & more 20+ food trucks, 20+ local artists & small business vendors will be set up inside and outside. FREE

**Fri., April 26 - 28, 12 pm: Women's Fair 2024,** Century II, 225 W. Douglas. This event attracts thousands to explore and engage with the newest trends in fashion, beauty, home decor, food, entertainment, and so much more. Culinary demonstrations, extensive shopping with hundreds of exhibitor booths, daily fashion shows. COST \$11 - tickets at [womensfair.com](http://womensfair.com).

**Fri., April 26, 6 pm: The Bloom Bazaar 2024,** Revolutsia, 2721 E Central. Capture the essence of spring at our nature-themed backdrop/photo ops, perfect for creating memories with friends and family. Groove to the beats of live DJ, Indulge your taste buds with delicious food and refreshing drinks from Prost, Good Company Taps & Spirits, or local vendors,

explore the "Bloom Bazaar Market" featuring 15 local vendors, venture into the charming local shops and embrace the outdoors with yard game. FREE

**Sat., April 27, 10 am: AARP KS Chess Tournament,** Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. A thrilling day of strategic battles on the chessboard. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned player, this event promises excitement for all skill levels. Bring your own board. FREE <https://bit.ly/ChessTourAARP>.

**Sat., April 27, 9 - 10 am: Homebuyer Informational Session,** Habitat for Humanity, 130 E. Murdock. Learn about the guidelines and process for our affordable homeownership program. Attending our homebuyer informational session is a mandatory step in the application process to become a homeowner with Wichita Habitat for Humanity.

**Sat., April 27, 11 am - 3 pm: READiculous Family ARTventure.** Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd. Family Fun - Let your imagination soar through the magic of art and

stories. Performances, storytelling, activities in the galleries, and art making for the whole family will spark your creativity on this day devoted to books and art. FREE

**Tue., April 30, 6:30 - 9:30 pm: Wichita Jazz Collective,** Walker's Jazz Lounge, 242 N. Mosley. An exciting evening of high-energy music celebrating the big band tradition. COST \$12+ <https://bit.ly/3VUL3I6>.

**Fri., May 3, 4:30 - 7 pm: WSU Mural Unveiling:** Cinco De Mayo Celebration: Duerksen Amphitheater, WSU Campus. Food Trucks and Entertainment. FREE

**Sat., May 4, 8 am - 12 pm: 2024 Wichita Area Skin Cancer Screening Clinic,** KU School of Medicine, 1010 N. Kansas St. Have a spot on your skin that you're concerned about or maybe you've never had a skin check? If so, join us for our annual screening clinic where local dermatologists will provide skin cancers screenings. No appointment necessary.

See **CALENDAR** Page 15 →

# Property Tax Relief

Eligible taxpayers reporting less than \$50,000 in taxable income could be eligible for property tax relief. **Scan the QR code** to learn more and fill out the application **or call 211** to have a tax expert help you apply.



**GANG LIST, from Page 3 ↓**

WPD is changing the way it trains its officers, is changing the way it interacts with the members of the community.”

Every six months, the special master will conduct a review of training materials, appeals and new additions to the gang list, issuing a report on WPD’s performance to the plaintiffs and their attorneys. Woody said she is unsure if that report will be made public.

If the department fails to conform to the agreement, the plaintiffs’ attorneys will have the right to extend the time of the agreement or to request court intervention.

As part of its annual audit of gang list members, the city will be required to report aggregate data on the age, race and number of people removed from the list and the same information for those whose status as a gang member is upheld.

Ching said the additional oversight will discourage discriminatory policing practices that have selectively targeted

minority populations in the past.

“The most effective policing is policing that complies with the law, and that includes specifically the supreme law of the land, which is the Constitution,” she said.

The settlement agreement does not require any change to the state law that empowered Wichita police to classify people as gang members without notifying them of their status as a criminal. The agreement does preserve attorneys’ right to challenge that law in the future.

“We’re very hopeful that seeing the changes that this required, the legislature will take a look at this and understand on its own that what it has on the books is not constitutional and needs to be changed,” Woody said.

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**CALENDAR, from Page 14 ↓**

provide skin cancers screenings. No appointment necessary. Screening is open to all ages. FREE

**Fri., May 10, 6 pm: Cheese Johnson’s UJUMP Junior Mentoring Program 3rd Annual Awards Ceremony,** WSU Tech National Center for Aviation Training, 4004 N. Webb Rd. Hors d’oeuvres, awards program, closing and photos. RSVP by April 26 to [micheleftiero@devfinent.com](mailto:micheleftiero@devfinent.com).

**KANSAS CITY**

**Mon., April 22, 5 - 7:30pm: “Sister Doula” Film Screening.** Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. Panelists: Dr. Jones, Emmitt Williams (filmmaker - Listen. Tell. Media), Hakima Payne. “Sister Doula” is the story of Hakima Payne, a nurse in Kansas City who tackles the Black maternal health crisis head on, fighting to save Black babies by offering alternatives to the U.S. healthcare system that surveils, criminalizes, and harms Black families. FREE

**Thu., April 25, 6 - 8pm: Thursday Tap Takeover with Vine Street Brewing Co.,** The Crosswalks, 1020 E. Armour Blvd. Join us for an evening of craft beer exploration and community celebration as we meet the faces behind Vine Street Brewing Co. and hear their stories. Raise a glass to complimentary locally made beverages, snacks, and music. FREE

**Sat., April 27, 5:30 - 8:30pm: Sneaker Paint and Sip.** 511 Delaware St. Join Local KC artists Kenya “KLVOE” and Remy “RAW Art” as we take you step by step through customizing your own white leather based shoe. COST \$60

**Sat., April 27, 10 am - 4pm: KC G.I.F.T. Presents: The Black Vitality Market,** 5008 Prospect Ave. Join us at The Black Vitality Market for wellness vendors, complimentary

blood pressure checks, dental cleanings, and more. #Health/Wellness

**Sat., April 27, 5 - 6 pm: Special BCFKC LIVE show of “The Kimology Show,”** Black Archives Of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th Terr. This special LIVE showing of “The Kimology Show” will feature interviews as well as a set from standups Janell Banks (KCMO), Vincent Bryant (STL) & Val Graves (Fayetteville, AR). FREE

**Sat., April 27, 11am - 2pm: Free Community Health Block Party.** Research Medical Building, 2316 E. Meyer Blvd. By SNIS Black Neurointerventionalists & Their Allies. Let’s get proactive about our health – while having fun with our community. Enjoy an afternoon of family-friendly activities, food, music, and preventative health education. FREE

**Sun., Apr 28, 2:30-4pm: Mindful Black Woman: Spiritual Support Group.** Kansas City Museum, 3218 Gladstone Blvd. This is a space for pro black non-religious spiritual women to share mental health concerns and growths. FREE

**Sun., April 28, Community Care Outreach Pop-Up.** UAW Local 31, 500 Kindleberger Rd., KCKS. Community service bringing families together to build & learn different aspects of business and service. FREE

**Sun., April 28, 7 - 9pm: BLK + BRWN Movie Night** at Stray Cat Film Center, 1662 Broadway Blvd. A commanding update of the noir gangster picture, BLK + BRWN is proud to reintroduce this thrilling addition to the ’90s Black film canon, featuring a commanding lead performance from Wesley Snipes. FREE

**Fri., May 3, 6:30 pm: Dope Black Dads,** KCK, 2100 N. 13th St. Black Fathers, do matter. Their involvement in the lives of their children, as well as advocating for them and their involvement in decision-making for services for children is critical, valuable and direly needed. FREE

**Sat, May 4, 10 am – 4 pm: Transformative Woman’s Experience;** Rest, Restore, Reset. Bruce R Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Keynote speaker: Chandra Green, MBL, LMFT CEO, Soulmine LLC. Fashion show, lunch, entertainment, giveaways, sister circle, vendors market. COST \$15

**Fri., May 10, 9 pm - 1 am: KC Tenants 5 year Party.** The Ship, 1221 Union Ave. The party features dynamic DJs Skeem, Pat Nice, & Mike Scott in the All Else The Sea Room and ShadaySpinzz in the Ship Lounge. COST \$15 <https://bit.ly/43Zoore>.

**Sat., May 18, 11 am - 10 pm: Black Expo,** Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W. 13th. This event is a celebration of the achievements, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit of the Black community, offering attendees a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. What to Expect: empowerment sessions, networking opportunities, business showcase, educational workshops, cultural celebration, food trucks. FREE.

**Sun., May 19, 3 pm - Midnight: The Black Business Ball & Honors.** Kansas City Convention Center, The Grand Ballroom, 301 W 13th St. Celebrating 12 years of advocating for Black-owned businesses. Join us for a night of inspiration, entertainment and reflection. COST \$150+ <https://bit.ly/3U30EOo>.

**Tue., May 21, 9 am - 3:30 pm: Project Homeless Connect.** Gregg Klice Community Center, 1600 E. 17th Terr. Medical and immunizations, vision screening and prescription glasses, on-site dental services, Missouri birth certificates, housing, employment and education assistance, legal services, veteran services, family and child services, food assistance programs and more. Free lunch for participants. Free transportation shuttle available.

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF CLARK IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR PARENTING PLAN, RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE AND/OR CHILD SUPPORT OF CHILDREN: ANTONY BRIAN BRACAMONTES OLVERA

Karen Lilian Olvera Manjaraz (Petitioner) and

Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez (Respondent)

**Case No. 2230152506**

PURSUANT TO PETITION FOR PARENTING PLAN, RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE AND/OR CHILD SUPPORT YOU ARE HEREBY

NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the Superior Court of Washington, County of Clark by Petitioner asking for a parenting plan, residential schedule and/or child support, and you are hereby required to plead to such petition on or before the 19th day of June, 2024, in said court at Superior Court of Washington, Clark County, 1200 Franklin St., Vancouver Washington.

Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Karen Lilian Olvera Manjaraz  
Petitioner

Alsr. Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez Para informarle por este Medio Que Karon Lilian Olvera Manjaraz que ella estapidiendo la custodia de su hijo Anthony Brian Bracamontes Olvera i tiene Un caso en la corte y el vive wichita Kansas Sialgien Loconose un familiar o amigo Selo agan sabor que tiene un caso en la corte por su hijo que vive en Vancouver, WA

Alsr. Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez To inform you by this means that Karon Lilian Olvera Manjaraz that she is asking for custody of her son Anthony Brian Bracamontes Olvera i has a case in court and he lives in Wichita Kansas if he knows a family member or friend who knows that he has a case in court for his son who lives in Vancouver WA

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**WICHITA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

# Shaping the next chapter

The Kauffman Foundation welcomes  
three new leaders with ties to Kansas City.



“The Foundation’s emphasis on learning and long-term impact resonates deeply with me. I am eager to support the mission of equitable economic mobility by leading transformational research, learning, and measurement that will advance equitable data systems and build evidence to inform decision-making.”

**Yvonne Owens Ferguson, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
*Vice President, Research, Learning, and Evaluation*

“

My life’s work has been focused on increasing educational opportunity and economic mobility for all. Philanthropic support has been critical to innovation and progress every step of the way. To be able to do this work at the Kauffman Foundation, in my hometown, is an honor and a privilege.”



**Allison Greenwood Bajracharya**  
*Vice President, Program Strategy*

“

I am energized by the opportunity to work intentionally with community partners to identify opportunities and challenges where the Foundation may be able to provide resources and support.”



**Gloria Jackson-Leathers**  
*Senior Advisor to the President,  
Community Engagement*

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Learn more at [Kauffman.org](https://www.kauffman.org)